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Honora Kelley

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HONORA KELLEY.

JUNE 6, 1882.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MATSON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 6002.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 6002) granting a pension to Honora Kelley, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to submit the following report:

As shown by the papers from the Pension Office, Honora Kelley is the widow of James Kelley, who enlisted in the United States Army January, 1854, and served continuously until December 6, 1878, when discharged from Company K, Fifth United States Cavalry. He received a severe wound of abdomen in a fight with Indians May 17, 1858. The only treatment shown during his entire service, except for this wound, was in 1869 for epistaxis. Major Malon certifies that the soldier was under his command for ten years, and during that period had repeated violent nose-bleedings threatening his life, and it was the current belief that these bleedings were the result of the wound received in an engagement with Indians.

The soldier died February 23, 1879, of pneumonia, at the Shoshone and Bannock Indian agency. The attending physician, Assistant Surgeon Grimes, certifies that on the 23d of February, 1879, he was called upon to attend Kelley, and found him in the last stage of pneumonia. He died on the same day, and it is his belief that the disease would not have terminated fatally had not Kelley been broken down and worn out by the vicissitudes of long service in the Army.

Lieutenant Thomas states that the soldier was discharged December 6, 1878. Authority was obtained for his re-enlistment from the Adjutant-General of the Army. But objections were raised by the commanding officer of the post to the residence of Kelley's family upon the reserve or about the post. His re-enlistment was postponed till he could make suitable arrangements for his family. While so doing he contracted the disease of which he died, and which terminated fatally from exposure incident to long frontier service.

Captain Woodson also certifies that during last year's service the soldier appeared much shaken and broken down, evidently the result of long frontier service.

This committee, in view of the length of service of this soldier, and the further fact that he was at the time of his death to all intents and purposes a soldier of the United States Army, recommends the passage of the bill, with the amendment striking out the words "death of the soldier," and inserting instead thereof the words, "passage of this act."